THE STROBE

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER

Issue 1 September 20, 1995

Rollerblading banned at FSC

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-Chief

Don't dream of darting down the paved pathways of the quad on your rollerblades anymore. Fitchburg State College has banned the use of rollerblades on campus following two serious accidents involving college students.

In March, FSC Junior Arismendy Ramos, suffered two broken legs in an accident that happened just off-campus on North Street. Although Ramos, last year's president of the Latin American Student Union, is now confined to a wheelchair, doctors say a full recovery is probable. However, it will be a while before he is able to walk on his own.

The other accident involved a student who was rollerblading on the Hammond loading dock when he fell and hit his head. He was unconscious when help arrived and he was taken to a nearby hospital. Though the injury didn't require any long-term medical care, it still caused concern for campus officials.

In a recommendation to then FSC President, Dr. Vincent Mara, Campus Police Chief Ted Cunningham says individuals should be prohibited from using rollerblades on campus because they "pose a threat to themselves and our pedestrian traffic."

Dr. Mara agreed, citing rollerblades as a "dangerous addition" to the college. He went on to say that all members of the college community and any visitors are prohibited from using them on campus.

Residence Life director Christine Corsello says that rollerblades have caused some damage to the residence life buildings as well. Burn marks in rugs and scuff marks on floors and walls can be attributed to the many rollerbladers who have cruised the hallways of Russell Towers, Aubuchon Hall, and the New Hall Buildings in the past.

The new ban on rollerblades is included in this year's student handbook, which means any student caught rollerblading on campus is in direct violation of the Student Code of Conduct and could brought before the student judicial system.

Anne Coyne, associate vice-president for Student Affairs, says that the first violation of the rollerblading ban may result in no more than a stern warning, but repeat offenders may be charged with violating the Student Code of Conduct. However, the judicial board does still have the right to bring charges on individuals for their first infraction of the rule. "We don't mean to minimalize the policy," said Coyne. "We just want to encourage students not to rollerblade on campus."

What can Chief Cunningham do if you go zipping down the city streets on your in-line skates? "There isn't a thing I can do about it," said Cunningham, explaining that the new ban only affects campus buildings, grounds and walkways. "We have no control of students rollerblading on the city streets, but so far we've had good cooperation," he says.

Fitchburg State college is not alone in its anti-rollerblading decision. Wentworth Institute and Massachusetts Institue of Technology have also instituted similar policies.

Brian McCoy of Wentworth Institute's Residence Life department said students found rollerblading in campus buildings there face disciplinary sanctions which usually involve community service. Rollerblading is considered a hall sport there and hall sports are forbidden in Residence Life buildings. McCoy said the ban came in an effort to

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Riccards picked as president

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-Chief

On June 7, historian Dr. Michael P. Riccards was selected by the Board of Trustees to succeed Dr. Vincent Mara as the ninth president of Fitchburg State College.

Riccards, 50, comes to FSC from Shepard's College in West Virginia where he served as president for six years. His nomination by the trustees was approved unanimously by the Massachusetts Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC).

The decision came after months of hard work by college representatives who formed a "Presidential Search Committee" to find a replacement for Mara, who retired after twenty years at the college.

The committee served as an advisor to the trustees by screening the resumes of 160 applicants and narrowing that pool to

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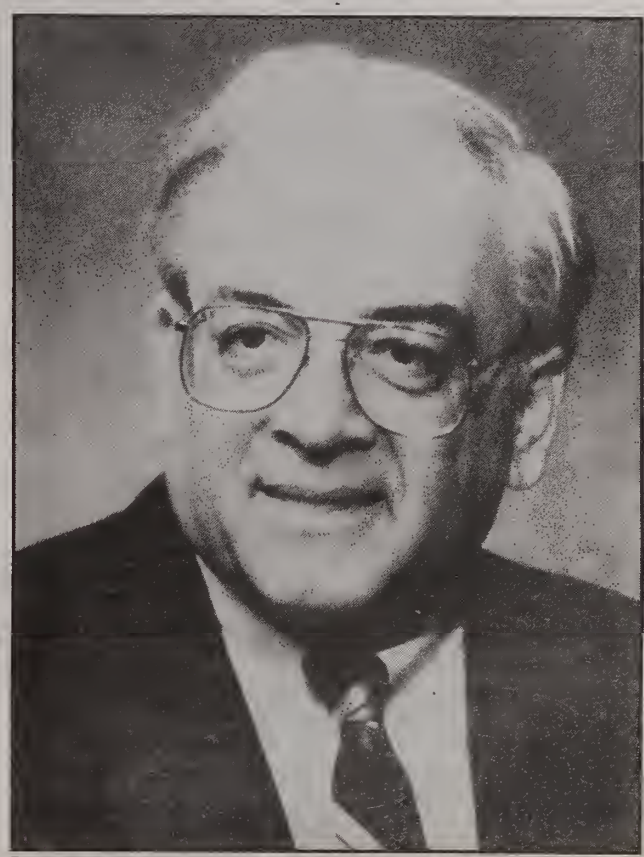

President Michael P. Riccards

G-rooms receive overhaul

by Anmari Kicza
Contributing writer

Participants in 1,573 non-academic meetings that take place in the Hammond Center annually can expect a new look for their meeting rooms this fall. Upwards of $40,000 was spent in renovations to the building.

All of the G and B rooms were renovated with some work still waiting to be completed by contractors. New carpeting, wall coverings and refinished chairs and tables were added to the rooms. In addition, hallways have been painted and signs added to most of the rooms and areas in the building.

A new electronic bulletin board system displays campus activities on television monitors located in G-lobby, above the information desk, in the commuter's cafe and in the dining commons. Both students organizations and staff can submit activity information for the system.

Bulletin board space for announcements from clubs and organizations is more scarce to come by with the addition of Greek flags in the location of last years space. Ellen Servetnick, Director of the Campus Center, said space is now available in G-lobby across from the staircase to accommodate more information.

The project was a collaborative effort with support from the Campus Center staff, facilities department and the Student Government. Servetnick brought ideas for renovations when she arrived at the college in February with a desire to update the twenty year old building and "bring it into the nineties". Last spring interior designers began their assessment and recommendations.

Over $23,000 was spent on the 260 new chairs and 45 new tables added to the four G-rooms. Funding for the renovations came through the college's Mission Money for special projects on campus after the president approved the request for funds.

Servetnick said she hopes students will respect the work that was done and help maintain the "fresh" look by keeping the building clean, not leaving trash in the rooms, and not removing the furniture.

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In-line skates damage dorms, safety hazard

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-Chief

Loosened tiles, burn marks in carpets, permanent scuff marks on floors and walls, and dangerous pedestrian collisions are all the end results of students rollerblading in on-campus buildings, according to Residence Life Director Christine Corsello.

"It's a lot of extra clean-up work and repair," said Corsello, who added that Aubuchon, Russell Towers, and New Halls suffered the most damage from rollerbladers last year. She said there have been no serious accidents in the dorms yet, but students often come zipping out of the hallways bumping into other students.

Corsello said the damage incurred was significant enough to speak to Campus Police Chief Cunningham, who made the final recommendation to former FSC President Vincent Mara to ban rollerblades on campus.

Rollerblades, continued from page 1.

protect students and the carpets in the buildings.

WHDH-TV in Boston recently reported that Cambridge and Brookline were also considering an ordinance which would ban skateboarders, rollerbladers, and cyclers from using the pedestrian filled sidewalks.

"One of the accidents was off-campus on city streets," said FSC Senior Holly Arsenault. "Because of the ban on campus, that's where we're forced to rollerblade, off-campus on city streets."

"Its ridiculous," agreed Kevin Martin, also a senior at FSC. "The city streets and sidewalks are even more dangerous."

Arismendy Ramos thinks the ban is a good idea. " Students were doing other things (on their rollerblades) that were dangerous, like jumping stairs. I know I was."

President Riccards, continued from page 1.

six applicants. Those six visited the school for meetings and interviews with members of the college community, who in turn provided feedback on the candidates to the search committee.

The search committee also conducted an "extensive" check on references. A member of the committee even visited the candidates' current employer to complete the process.

Three finalists were then recommended to the Board of Trustees who in turn met and interviewed each of the candidates. The state police also conducted a routine background check on Riccards before his nomination was sent to the HECC.

Riccards left Shepard's College in West Virginia where he was credited with establishing a research park and several academic centers, including the Washington Gateway and the Center for the Study of the Civil War. He was also responsible for fundraising projects which built the Shepard College Science and Technology Building.

in addition, he has managed to teach one course a year, a feat he said he wouldn't mind repeating at FSC.

The new job isn't just a change of scenery for the new president, it's a pay raise of $21,000 as well. Riccards will make $105,000 as FSC president. His previous salary at Shepard's College was $83,000.

He said his work at Shepard's College, a small school of 3,600 students, has given him a sense of the problems he'll have to deal with at FSC. He would like to continue the process of redeveloping the city and wants to build on the strengths of the college.

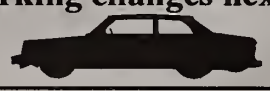
Riccards has already drawn attention to himself by offering companies that employ FSC graduates free training for employees that do not have the skills necessary to do their jobs, skills that they should have received at the college. "It shows confidence in how we train our students and prepare them for work," said Riccards. "If they don't have the skills they need, they can come back and get them."

Prior to his work at Shepard's College, Riccards served as president of St. John's College in Santa Fe for three years. Before that he held leadership posts at Hunter College in New York and UMass-Boston. Michael Shanley, Director of Information Services at FSC, said that Riccards plans to make Fitchburg his last stop.

Riccards is author of several books and an expert on the American presidency. He has written dozens of major plays including "The Odes of DiMaggio: A Study in American Mythology and Sports". The former Fulbright Fellow to Japan and National Endowment to the Humanities Fellow at Princeton University received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree from Rutgers University.

Riccards and his wife have recently moved to Fitchburg and their youngest daughter is a freshman at St. Bernard's High School.

Read about FSC's parking changes next week in The Strobe



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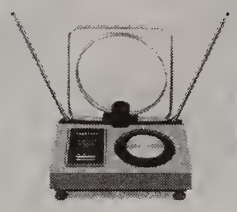

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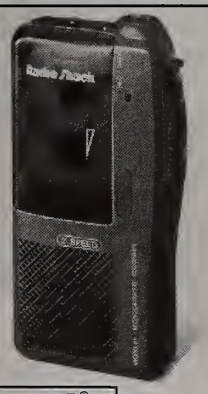

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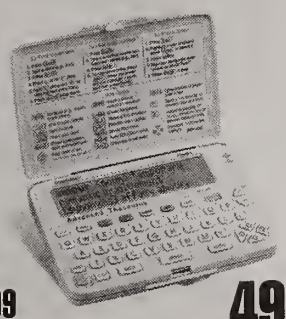

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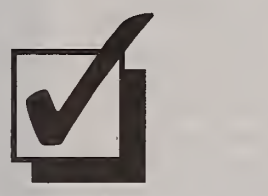

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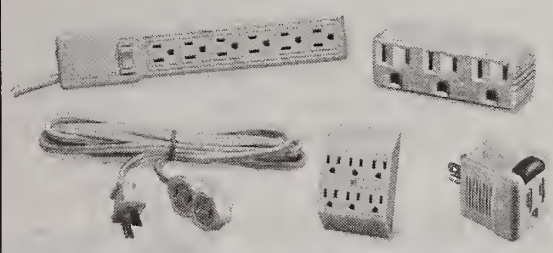

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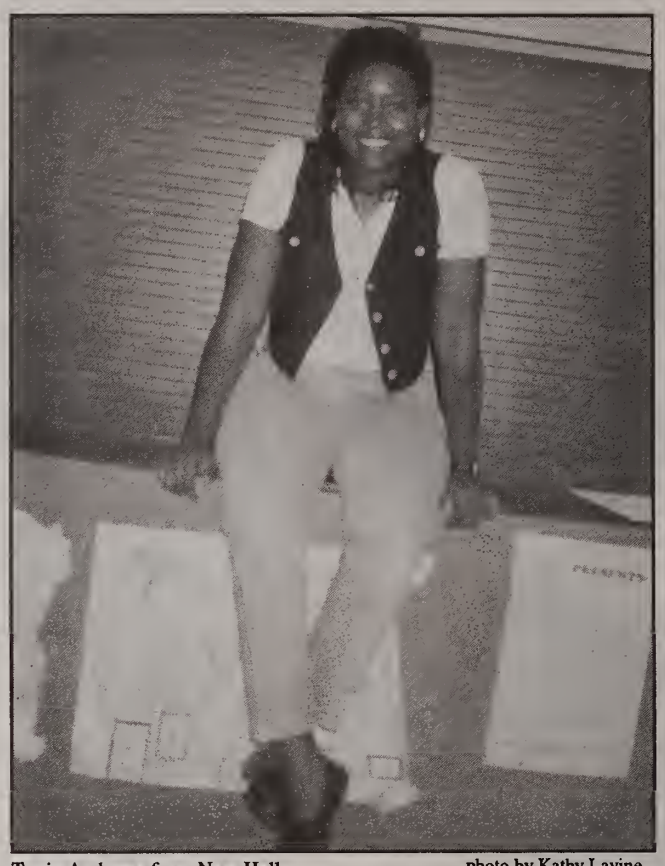
New RD's run resident life buildings

by Kathy Lavine
Features Editor


Terrie Andrews from New Halls photo by Kathy Lavine

John Torpie of Russell Towers photo by Kathy Lavine

If you lived in one of the residence halls last year, you've probably noticed the changing of the guard this summer. Four new Resident Directors have joined FSC's Residence Life team.

Anesti Agapiadis (pronounced ah-ga-pee-ah-dis) is the new RD for Herlihy. Born in Worcester of Greek immigrant parents, he lived there until he was four. The family decided to move back to Greece, where he lived until he was 18. He came back in 1988 to go to college at Framingham State where he graduated last December. He was an RA there for three years and an ARA for two.

He wants to stay in the field of Student Affairs and plans on getting a degree in education or counseling in a couple of years. He is a firm believer in public higher education and feels that "the quality of education received from public schools is comparable if not better than private schools."

Anesti is happy in Herlihy Hall not only because of its history, the first residence hall on-campus, but because it will be housing international students year round, not to mention the safety and heating renovations that Herlihy received this summer. He feels that this type of residence hall promotes the best interaction for international students. This way, people will become better acquainted with international students while the international students "can get used to the American lifestyle and culture much faster than they would if they were isolated in one building where only international students lived."

Some of Anesti's personal goals for the year are to learn every resident's name, to build as positive a community as possible and to create and maintain a respectful environment.

Terrie Andrews is the RD of New Halls. She is from Colorado, but moved to Germany with her mother when she was young. She traveled back and forth spending time with her family on both sides of the Atlantic until it was time for college.

Andrews decided that she wanted to be where she knew more people, so she went to college in Colorado. She is a member of the sorority Zeta Phi Beta and can speak German (the language spoken in Germany, not the textbook German.).

The way New Halls is arranged suits her just fine. She feels it gives a person space, yet allows residents to be part of a community. She plans on being around for a while and eventually going for her masters' degree.

Not only has Andrews brought her ideas and experience from Colorado to this campus, she has also brought along her 7-year-old niece, Anita, who is in her custody for a year and has settled down to attend school nearby.

Another new RD that has journeyed from another time zone to join the Res life squad is John Torpie, of Russell Towers. He grew up in Dallas Texas and left home to attend school at Union College in Schenectady, NY. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor's in psychology. He spent four years as an assistant and then an assistant director of Undergraduate Admissions at Clarkson University in Potsdam NY. He went on to get his Master's degree from Boston University.

During the time he spends here, Torpie hopes he can create a different atmosphere for Russell Towers. To him, Russell should be a place of social development, a place to prepare students for life in the real world. He feels that everyone who resides there has a responsibility to help maintain Russell and improve the hall's reputation. He is counting on the help of the Russell community to improve the hall's reputation this year.

Renovations for Res Life

by Derek Valcourt
Editor-in-Chief

The 1,226 students living on-campus this year saw some improvements to their buildings when they returned to school on September 3 and 4. According to Residence Life Director Christine Coresllo, money for the projects came from the Residence Life Budget and from the Massachusetts State College Building Authority.

Herlihy Hall was the major overhaul recipient this year. Residence Life reports that the all of the bedrooms in this traditional style dormitory were completely repainted. Brand new windows, screens, and shades were installed in every room, as well.

The 96 residents of Townhouses all had their carpets shampooed before they returned to school. Eight apartments got all new furniture, including new stoves.

New Halls underwent a "comprehensive cleaning" this summer. Some walls were patched and painted and a hundred old mattresses were replaced.

Three elevators and eighty rooms in Russell Towers were repainted.

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Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

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A challenge to the student body

by Ron Taupier
Opinion editor

Here is my plan: Aside from bequeathing my liver to the Biology Department, I want to encourage our student body to take a more active role in expressing their opinions about the multi-faceted and ever diverse world in which we live today, preferably in our esteemed college newspaper, THE STROBE.

As we get set to begin another semester at FSC, those of us who are seniors are realizing this is our final journey. This is the last chance to impart our beliefs and ideas about ourselves, our school and our society as a Fitchburg State student. And if you are not a senior, well... it may not be your last chance, but it's definitely a good one so do it anyway.

As the Opinion Editor for THE STROBE, it is my job to put together the voices of the student body. To become a voice that students will hear and faculty will respect. Often at times, students use the opinion section as a means to vent their frustrations on personal and controversial issues. And that is wonderful. However, far too often an opinion is formed and then forgotten before it can be put on paper or a computer screen, and that is a tragedy.

Do not fall victim to having a valid opinion and keeping it to yourself. Seize the opportunity to convey an educated expression of your opinion. Many of us probably agree with you, but until you take that bold step and give it to us, you'll never know if your argument will be challenged or embraced.

I think some people regard expressing an opinoin on a controversial issue as "politically incorrect"; but this is not the case when it comes to the opinions generated by our student population. I strongly encourage students to hold onto their ideas and feel confident in expressing themselves. I can't imagine a better vehicle for students to do this than in their own weekly newspaper, THE STROBE.

THE STROBE has matured a great deal over the years, and so have its writers. The student body has an incredible opportunity to play the role of devil's advocate, policymaker, problem-solver or fire-setter by speaking out subjectively on topics that effect us on a daily basis.

Think about it, couldn't we all be a bit more intuitive when it comes to events that occur in our own society? Little emphasis is placed on what is going on in our world today. As college educated individuals, it is imperative that we seize this opportunity to create opinions and force them to be challenged.

So make it a point to become involved this year and above all else, DON'T KEEP YOUR OPINIONS TO YOURSELF! With all that said, I implore you, No, I challenge you: Drop us a line at The Strobe office and tell the world, or at least the campus, what you think. Not everyone has the ability to create solutions for the planet, but we are all capable of generating some valuable insight.

"Criminal's right to life"

by Ron Taupier
Opinion editor

A man sits in a six by nine foot prison cell trapped hearing only the echo of his own voice. He entertains himself, feels remorse, and contemplates what is left of his "so called life..." In essence he IS dead. Dead to every facet of life, only nourished by the thoughts within his own conscience and three meals a day. His sight is limited to the wall in front of him, and sunlight is a dream forgotten. Images of green grass, trees and blue skies are difficult to create. He is no longer alive, he is no longer a man, and is barely human. Sure, he had killed a man when he was eighteen. So now he must die? I thought that these barbaric persecution techniques were something from the past.

There is something drastically wrong with our criminal justice system when it fosters the old adage: "an eye for an eye..." Has our society fallen deep into a well of immorality? In some states, capital punishment is still "alive". This method of persecution should be abolished.

Advocates of the death penalty claim that in cases of capital crime the criminal should "hang". Or "capital crime deserves capital time...". What gives the courts and government the right to play the role of God? Those guilty of crime will reach their final punishment when it is their day of judgement in places beyond lethal injections, gas chambers and John Grisham novels.

Perhaps more money should be generated and pumped into the school systems, educating society on the consequences of crime. Would this mitigate capital crime? The entire culture of crime and its foundation lies in behavior modification at an early age.

There is only one gift that every person has in common: LIFE. We all breath in the same air and to have someone strip this gift from us is morally wrong. Legislation is needed in areas of crime prevention to help surface alternative methods that will have an equal impact in deterring capital crime.

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Show me some ID: Reaching the glorified age of 21

by Ron Taupier
Opinion editor

Students who enjoy a social alcoholic beverage now and again (which is a good portion of the college population) are happy about being born in1974. Say goodbye to futile attempts with your homemade, falsified identification and you can stop praying to the "bouncer gods" that they will forget to card at the door on this thirsty summer evening. You have reached that glorified age—21.

What a incredible weight lifted off your shoulders when you can walk into an establishment and actually gain a sense of maturity and be confident that you are not breaking any laws, or will be sent back to your dorm to study for Friday's exam. You are free to sit and enjoy that beer that has been enjoyed in good company since 1777.

Turning 21 is a significant benchmark in a young adult's life. Undeniably though, we must realize that the drinking scene does not begin at 21. All across the globe people are experimenting with alcohol at varying ages.

So what makes 21 the universal age? First of all it is not universal. The drinking age in some foreign countries is eighteen or non-existent. Why should the States be any different? For instance, each province of Canada has a different age in which you can legally drink. So for all of the Freshman readers: start packing and migrate north if you want to drink legally or take a short stroll down Myrtle avenue if you're really parched.

Are the citizens of our country not as mature as those in distant lands? Or does the government "get-off" on setting yet another guideline for society? By no means am I advocating public protest, I am simply questioning the need for a rule to govern personal choice.

I was under the influence... under the impression rather, that if lawmakers create a system that deters drinking until you are a certain age, then it is inevitable that this system will be tested. The 21 year old rule has been tested for years and it is failing miserably. As a recently turned legal drinker, I can attest to getting into a handful of watering holes with little problem at all. I felt that I was mature enough to be in that type of setting and saw no reason to be 21.

If legislation didn't limit alcohol consumption to only those of a certain age, then society in turn would not glorify the significance of being 21. Of course, I cannot neglect to state the obvious. Alcohol is an addictive drug that can create poor judgement and bad decision-making. However, some poor judgement is on the part of policymakers in not realizing that it takes more education regarding the use, abuse, and effects of alcohol to curb crime and death related incidents involving alcohol. Until then...Cheers to 1995!!

Marvel ain't so hot

by Kevin Robertson
A&E editor

The more fans look at the comics industry as a whole, the more similarities occur with past and present eras. It seems sometimes as if odd decades are a low point for the major comics companies, while in the even ones flourish.

Take Marvel for instance. In the eighties, they were the dominant comics group sales wise. Now they've become a carbon copy of their own innovations. The Punisher, the X-men, and Spider-Man were the groundbreaking comics for their company and now in the nineties each new character is only a hollow imitation of those three originals.

The Punisher is the perfect example of this phenomenon. The character was used to define psycho militant vigilantes in our society. His interaction with other characters in the Marvel Universe, specifically Daredevil, Captain America and Spidey allowed Marvel to comment on the overuse of vigilantes within the hero realm.

What has he become though? A cartoon character who now looks and acts like Steven Seagle. Too bad he almost seemed to be gaining a soul or conscience. A pathetic vision of what once was a brilliant use of vigilante politics.

Then there is Spider-Man. If none one has been following his recent adventures, you haven't missed a thing. It seems now the character that audiences have been following for the last twenty years is nothing but a clone. This is an insult to the reader's sensibility and a fraud to the original vision of what Stan Lee meant for this character. If he's at all involved in the publishing of the comic. If he isn't it is even more of an insult.

But the tortured comic book reader may be wondering what they can read in this trash's place. Fear not! For as in the seventies and fifties, the nineties have brought power, clarity and brilliance to a cache of independent(indies) comics out in the market. Madman, Bone, Stray Bullets and Preacher are among the best written if not the best selling comics on the market. There are also many other indies which are stronger than any of the big market comics.

Remember always that the power of publishing is in what the reader buys and not what the companies bring down upon our heads. Enjoy what you read and continue to support the forum and not the companies. The cream always rises to the top!

"Circle of friends" really square

by Kevin Robertson
A&E Editor

Available on video
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If the discerning movie goer gets the choice between seeing "Circle of Friends" and flossing their toes, the toes need the attention most.

"Circle" is the story of three female friends in Ireland and their relationship trials in the fifties. Chris O' Donnell stars as one of the men they encounter. Beni, a catholic girl struggling between her libido and her religion, which seems to be the main focus of the story.

The leading lady is an excellent actress but was unfortunately given a poor excuse for a script and a terrible leading man. Here is a good tip Chris, if you get anywhere near an Irish accent, go with it.

Then there's the fun of watching the plot unfold. For someone who found the plot twists of "Batman Forever" to be new and exciting, it was a great pleasure to know exactly what was happening thirty minutes beforehand.

The idea itself could have been a good one, if the characters were written less stereotypical. The criticism of the "Catholic Ideal" would have worked better had the writer pushed the gauntlet a little. This seems to be a movie that should offend people but doesn't.

It also seems as if it as written in order to give Chris O'Donnell a part in it. Imagine the writer saying "well he's Irish...'O'Donnell'... that's Irish!" Unfortunately, he comes off as a fraternity guy and not the sensitive Irish cat he should be.

This was not a story that needed to be told. Each actor should have refused their parts along the lines of dignity and reputation. The director's part in this fiasco can be summed up by the final line, "forgive me Father, for I have sinned."

Houston, we have a problem

by Delilah Larimore
Associate Editor

Apollo 13
*****
secondary release in theaters

Apollo 13 originally began as a plight to save three men whose lives were hanging in the balance, and ended as the biggest blockbuster of the summer.

Director Ron Howard brings to life this heartwrenching true story of a fantastic space journey turned near disaster. Academy Award winner Tom Hanks(Forrest Gump) plays astronaut commander Jim Lovell, joined by Bill Paxton(True Lies) who plays astronaut Fred Haise and Kevin Bacon(Murder in the First) plays astronaut Jack Swigert.

Three astronauts travel to the moon when an explosion occurs that tears their spacecraft to pieces. The Apollo 13 command module odyssey is losing oxygen and astronauts Lovell, Sigert and Naise are using the lunar module as a lifeboat.

Working together to bring the astronauts home are the members of Mission Control and flight director Gene Kranz played most convincingly by Ed Harris. Also struggling to bring them home safely from the grips of outer space is astronaut Ken Mattingly played by Gary Sinise(Truman), who was bumped from the mission because of exposure to the measles.

As the nation holds its breath, and so many people work hard to bring these three men in their broken down ship home, more things keep going wrong.

This electrifying, true story of America's most daring, heroic space rescue is not to be missed.

Place your bets!

Photo by Derek Valcourt

Freshman Orientation Leader Sarah Agostini runs a game at Casino night in G-Lobby during June's freshman orientation. Over 700 freshmen registered for classes, took placement exams, and participated in social activities including cookouts, a dance, and casino night.

Mid winter almost touches Branagh

by Emily Petipas
contributing writer

"In the Bleak MidWinter"
Independent Release

In a country where implanted women and muscle brained men delivering mono-syllabic dialogue equals a block buster hit, Kenneth Branagh's "In the Bleak Midwinter" is an excellent switch.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is an extraordinary comedy that shows actors and actresses living and breathing their art. It presents a venue into the life of an underworked actor/director named Joe, played by Michael Maloney, who in a streak of unemployment induced dementia decides to produce and direct a low budget version of Hamlet.

As he endeavors to perform what most actors consider occupational suicide, he gathers together a group of lovable yet somewhat tapped out of work actors. The play itself becomes therapeutic allowing each of the characters to conquer their individual fears and insecurities.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is an intelligent romantic comedy. The dialogue was artistic only to be complimented by the black and white cinematography giving it an appropriately classic look.

Even though Kenneth Branagh was not in the film, you can still see him in every shot and hear him with every word. He invented a world of real people with real emotions. His sensitivity to the characters makes you wonder whether or not this film was meant to be an autobiography. In a word, this film was superb.

Women's soccer aims high for '95

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

In only its second season, the Fitchburg State women's soccer team posted a 10-5 record, 3-3 in the MASCAC. Now in its third season, big things are expected for the Lady Falcons.

"We'll have an excellent year this year," said coach Ed Dupuis. "This team, it seems, is a very skilled team. In the past we had girls who were athletes, they weren't really soccer players. This year it seems we're more of a skilled team than a kick-and-run team."

Leading the team for FSC this year will be team captains Ginger Boermeester, Melissa Bourie and Kelly Koscielecki. Bourie and Koscielecki are expected to anchor the defense, while Boermeester, a former MASCAC MVP, will be a team leader on offense.

"The team leaders will be my captains, I count on them quite a bit," said Dupuis. "They're the ones the girls should look up to, and the ones I expect to lead this team."

But Fitchburg State has to improve on one area to help themselves in the standings—scoring.

A player who could take up a lot of the slack is sophomore Maryann Barrett, who scored eight goals in an excellent freshman year, and Dupuis expects even bigger things from her with a season of experience underneath her.

"I think Maryann Barrett will benefit extremely well (with a year's experience)," said Dupuis. "She's learned quite a bit. It's a different type of soccer that she has to play with us. She seems to have improved quite a bit on her ball skills.

The Falcons did suffer some key losses over the off-season, including the loss of goalie and captain Stacie Mawn, who had a 1.22 goals against average in her twelve games.

"Stacie was a leader, she was well-liked and she was an excellent soccer player, but I expect Karen Irving to be very good, to step right in," said Dupuis.

Irving, a sophomore, started three games for the Falcons last season, winning all three while appearing in four others. Her goals against average was actually better than Mawn's, (0.69).

Another loss is Allyson McGinn, a strong defender as well as one of the team's captains from last year.

"It's a big loss with Allyson McGinn, but other girls will step in," said Dupuis. "Vicki Davidson seems to be a very strong defensive player."

The Women's soccer team gets ready for the season during practice photo by Norman Miller

Davidson, from Division 1 high school Westfield, is just one of the top newcomers. Lisa Herrick, Kim Jones, Lori Quinn and Megan Tufts are all expected to step in to help the team. Also, Heather Arsenault and Heather Baily, both starters at Leominster High last season, as a halfback and goalie, respectively, are both expected to be key players this season.

Coach Dupuis doesn't see the loss of the final three games of the season as anything to worry about, pointing out that they were in all of the games. Also two of their MASCAC losses came against North Adams State, the MASCAC champions, 1-0, and Salem State 2-0, the second place team in the MASCAC. The other loss came in the season finale to Bridgewater State, 2-0.

"We may have lost, but we totally dominated. We hit the crossbar or the post seven different times, we ended up losing 2-0, they scored their second goal when we pulled our goalie," said Dupuis.

Fitchburg State traveled to New England College last Thursday, repeating last year's victory over that school.

Men's Soccer: Year of the Falcon

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State men's soccer team has a new look this season; not only do they have a new coach, but thirteen incoming freshman, six of them projected starters.

Marty Aristegui, an assistant from last years team, is taking over for Tony Conte, who resigned. Aristegui is not a stranger to the local sports scene, he began the soccer program at Nashoba Regional in 1978, where he coached until 1981. He also coached at Fitchburg High from 1986 until 1993. With a new coach, comes a new system.

"It's a more trap the ball, quick passes and running to the seam, really fast paced, but controlled soccer, compared to kick-and-run," said Aristegui.

On the field, the Falcons have the impossible task of replacing MASCAC Co-Player of the Year Dean Nichols, and Chris Dupuis, and All-MASCAC second teamer as well as the team's second leading scorer. Combined they scored 29 goals and had 16 assists. Aristegui also has to find a replacement for the goalies tandem of Scott Robertson and Edward Suarez.

Taking their places are a talented group of freshman. Nathan Arnold from East Brookfield, David Paez of Leominster and Matt Guavin of Fitchburg are all expected to start. But leading the team on the front line is going to be senior John Toney, who had three goals and six assists last season.

"My best weapons in the front line are going to be John Toney and Nathan Arnold," said Aristegui. "Arnold is a freshman, but he is one of the best players in Central Mass. John Toney is a complete player. He can play midfield, he can play defense, he can play goalie, and if I need it, he can be my striker. This is going to be his best year, he's going to be one of the top scorers in this league."

Taking over the duties in the goal is another freshman, Aaron Hohos, who played at St. Bernards, will see a lot of action. He is the only goalie on the roster.

"He has improved a lot, day after day in practice," said Aristegui. "I think he's going to be a really good goalie. He's got the size,(6'5"), he's got the agility, the mobility."

Other top returning players are Takashi Adachi from Shrewsbury and Jason Richardson from Wrenthan. Adachi, an All-MASCAC first teamer, is the top returning scorer, scoring five goals and four assists, while Richardson is the defensive leader at fullback.

Aristegui blames last season's slow beginning on the fact that Richardson was out with an injury, but when he returned after five games, the team went 7-2-1.

"As soon as he arrived he proved to us what kind of leader he was, and how much of a difference he made to the team," said Aristegui. "I never believed that one player could change a team, but he proved to me it could be done. He's my captain."

The biggest problem for Fitchburg State this season will be experience. There are only five seniors and four sophomores.

"It's going to be a decent team, but they have to go against teams with seven or eight seniors, like Salem State, the difference your going to see is on the field, the experience. It's a two to three year difference, but I think we'll be alright. I hope God is at my side."

The FSC soccer team opened up their season last Thursday at home against UMass-Lowell.

"The first game of the season is the most important game for me and the players. For me, because I want to establish that I'm a winning coach. Wherever I go I've been low key and I won. So for me to establish the winning way, I have to win the first game. If we lose, we lose, but in my mind, there's no way we're going to lose. I have to build confidence in my players."

Weekend Review

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

This past week in Fitchburg State Sports was a success for FSC athletics, with four out of the six having first week success.

After losing their second leading scorer, the Field Hockey team was expected to have trouble scoring, but that's not the case, as their record stands at 2-1, including a 3-2 double overtime victory against Division 2 Keene State, with Wendy Gagliani scoring two goals, including the game winner. So far this young season, Gagliani has scored four goals.

The men's soccer had a successful debut under new head coach Marty Aristegui, winning a 4-2 decision against UMass-Lowell, with freshman Nathan Arnold scoring two goals, and fellow freshman Aaron Hohos having a strong game in net.

Women's soccer is enjoying a fast start, similar to their 8-0 start last season, going 2-0 so far, including a 9-1 massacre of Emerson College. Sophomore Maryann Barrett scored a game high four goals, with Ginger Boermeester adding two of her own. Julie Robinson, Wendi Sheffer and Heather Hall also contributed a goal each. Karen Irving was in net, and allowed only one direct kick to sail over her head. But the team did suffer a loss as starting midfielder Kim Jones suffered a dislocated shoulder.

The volleyball team is also getting off to a good start, winning their first two matches, a 3-2 win over Simmons College, and a 3-0 win over Daniel Webster.

But the football team is having their problems. Last season the team opened up their season with shutout victories over Curry College and Framingham State, this season, they opened up with a 38-28 loss to Curry College, and Framingham paid the Falcons back with a shutout of their own, beating them 20-0.

The mens and women's cross country team opened up their season this weekend, but results aren't available yet.

This week in FSC sports, men's soccer is on the road until September 27, women's soccer comes home the twenty third, while volleyball is home September 19, 20 and 23, all games in the gym at 7:00 PM. Field hockey is on the road until September 30, the cross country hosts a multi team meet on September 29, and the football team hosts Westfield State this Saturday at 1:00.

Football looses opener 38-28

Four records set

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

Despite scoring 16 unanswered points in the fourth quarter, the Fitchburg State football team lost its season opener to Curry College 38-28 at Elliot Field, with Curry avenging a 20-0 loss last season.

"I'm a first year coach, so I've never lost to Fitchburg State, coaching or playing," said Colonel's coach Chris House. "It's just another day for us."

Despite the loss, FSC set four school records as Jason Dyer had 61 passing attempts for 305 yards—breakin. Tom Fitzgibbons marks set in 1984—while freshman Greg McClintock caught 12 passes for 141 yards. The twelve catches broke Jeff Ray's 11-year mark, while the 141 yards surpassed current Falcon Keith Couto's record of 131, which he set last year.

But the Colonels got too much help from FSC. Dyer threw six interceptions and the team made thirteen penalties for 155 yards.

Neither team could move the ball in the first half, with both teams playing strong defense, FSC took a 6-0 lead on a 50-yard interception return by Carl Ball for a touchdown, but Fitchburg kicker McClintock missed the extra-point.

"The defense held us in it(the game) pretty good in the first half," said Falcon coach Mike Woessner.

But in the second quarter, the Colonels exploded for twenty-four points to take a 24-6 lead.

After a 32 yard interception return by Aubin off of a pass by Dyer, freshman running back Jason Vigeant scored the first touchdown for Curry, eluding tacklers to score from seventeen yards out. The extra point made it 7-6.

After FSC went three and out, Curry quarterback Chris Mazzone found Cato streaking down the sideline for a 58 yard touchdown reception to make it 14-6.

Fitchburg State got lucky on the next Curry Drive when Mazzone threw to Cato in the end zone for an apparent touchdown, but it was called back due to an illegal motion penalty. After holding the Colonels for the first three downs, the Falcons luck ran out as Vigeant avoided tacklers and ran to the FSC 2 yard line, and Curry kicked a field goal to make it 17-6.

Fitchburg tried to go for it on fourth down on their next possession, but Dyer was picked off by Daniel Cotter and returned it 21 yards, which led to a 25-yard touchdown pass to Cato, and with the extra point, made it 24-6, which ended the scoring for the half.

"We've got great athletes," said House. "Our wide receivers were athletically superior to their defensvie backs."

Anthony Divito punts the ball away in FSC's 38-28 loss to Curry College. Photo by Norman Miller.

In the second half, Curry continued where they left off. After a punt by Anthony Divito pinned the Colonels down at the four yard line, Mazzone connected with Cato for receptions of thirty seven yards and thirty six yards, before Mazzone threw to Mike Leone for a 21-yard touchdown pass, making it 31-6 with the extra point.

"He (Cato) made big plays," said House. "Every time we needed big plays we passed to him."

After the Falcons went three and out again, Leone received the punt and returned it 61 yards for the touchdown to make it 38-6. Leone's touchdown would be the last for the Colonels for the rest of the game.

FSC attempted to come back late in the third quarter. After a 40 yard punt by Curry that put Fitchburg State at the 44-yard line, Dyer hit Jason Lobik for a 31 yard reception, and then hit McClintock in the back corner of the end zone. FSC missed the two point conversion, making it 38-12.

In the fourth quarter, after a punt by the Colonels, Dyer scrambled 40 yards for the touchdown, avoiding all would-be tacklers on first down. Dyer ran in for the two point conversion making it 38-20.

On the Falcons next drive, Dyer hit McClintock for a 14 yard reception, and then hit Bob Raxasack for a 15-yard gain on third down, bringing FSC to the seven yard line. Fitchburg went for it on fourth down, but it was incomplete, but Curry roughed the passer, giving them a new life. The Falcons made them pay as Damone Ballard ran it in for a touchdown, and Verdier caught the two point conversion making it the final 38-28.

"We're a young team, and things like this are going to happen," said Woessner.

The Falcons meet Westfield State at Elliot Field Saturday at 1 p.m.

Field Hockey looks for an offensive season

Gagliani expected to lead scoring

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

In 1991 the Fitchburg State field hockey team won the MASCAC championship. Two years later in 1993, the Lady Falcons won another championship. Now, two years later in 1995, the question is: Will that trend continue?

"I think the state schools have really stepped up in their hockey," said FSC coach Lisa Valardi. "There's going to be a lot of tough competition, with Framingham State being the only weak team. Which ever team plays better on any given day will have a good chance at getting the win."

This year's team, led by team captains Wendy Gagliani and Meredith Hertel, has a solid group of returning players to give leadership to the incoming freshman. Gagliani, who averaged 5 goals, and 3 assists last year, was an All-MASCAC first team selection, as well as a two-time MASCAC player of week. Hertel, who averaged 2 goals and 2 assists last year, was on the MASCAC honor roll last October.

However, the Lady Falcons will have to deal with the loss of Erika Oliver and Ericka Klimco; both were All-MASCAC second teamers.

To replace Oliver, the Falcons are going with a new, faster front line, which, along with Gagliani and Hertel, includes sophomores Ashley Aube and Kristen Hogan. Also on the front line will be Yuriko Seke of Yokohama, Japan.

"If we can get the ball to the front line, they can beat any defense down field," said Valardi.

Sophomore Mary Baker is expected to take the place of hard hitting Klimco.

"It's a big loss, I can't deny that," Valardi said of Klimco. "We're going to miss her stick strength, her play in the corners and her checking ability. I've never seen someone with a stronger drive."

Valardi said Baker will add something to the team as well. "She is an extremely smart girl. She knows the position. She knows where to be. She won't be caught out of position," Valardi said.

Other top returning players include: Leominster's Tina Leger, a senior halfback who was an All-MASCAC second team selection; sophomore goalie Tiffany Davis of Lunenburg; and Dianne Marshall, who had a great freshman season, allowing an average of 1.26 goals per game.

Top newcomers include Denise Rogers of Onset, who is expected to start and Tanya Sloan of Gardner, who has transferred from Anna Maria college and will share time in the goal with Marshall.

"It's nice to have two goalies. It's the first time since I've been here that we've had two goalies," said Valardi. "They're going to push each other."

The team's biggest problem last season was scoring. They were held scoreless in nine games. For this team to be successful, the concensus is they'll need someone to step up to have a big year on the offensive side of the field.

"Wendy (Gagliani) is ready to score. Last year she had some problems putting the ball in the net. I think this is going to be a big season for her," Valardi said.

The Lady Falcons lost their opener 4-1 on the road at Clark University, September 12. The score was 1-1 at the half, with Gagliani tallying the Falcon's lone goal.

"Clark is an extremely good team. We didn't know we were going to play them until last week. We probably weren't ready for a team of that caliber, but to get better, you have to play the best."